

**Region 7 Conference Call Minutes**  
**March 17, 2009**  
**10:00 – 11:15 a.m.**

**I. Welcome and Introductions:**

**Attendees:**

**Region 7  
County:**

**Representative Present:**

<i>Clinton</i>	Pauline Baert & Rhoda Hacker
<i>Eaton</i>	Nancy Oliver
<i>Hillsdale</i>	Maxine Vanlerberg
<i>Ingham</i>	Angie Mayeaux, Virginia Taylor for Patrick Patterson & Darla Dowker Jackson
<i>Jackson</i>	Kim Clementz
<i>Lenawee</i>	Khristine Henson-Jones & Sharon Hudson
<i>Livingston</i>	Beverly Mostowy & Lindsay Beaudry
<i>Shiawassee</i>	Becky Zemla & Linda Schonberg
<i>Washtenaw</i>	Michael Appel & Julie Steiner

**Also Present:** Tanda Reynolds (DHS), Connie Hackney & Paul Biering (MSHDA) and Lindsey Bishop (CSH)

**Coordinator:** Debby Kloosterman

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by State Leadership Team representative, Maxine Vanlerberg.

Additions to the agenda were added under Item X: "Other Items of Concern". These included HARP Voucher questions, Regional Grant Review clarification request, and Housing First Mini-Grant question. Michael Appel made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Linda Schonberg supported. Motion carried.

There was one correction to the February meeting minutes: Tasha Gray and Mikki Myszak were the two individuals on lay-off from the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Angie Mayeaux made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Becky Zemla supported. Motion carried.

**Coordinator Report:** Debby Kloosterman reported:

- A. Operating Guidelines: A draft copy of Region Seven Operating Guidelines were sent out to regional representatives and statewide collaborative partners. Only one individual sent Debby feedback prior to the conference call. Several items were noted as areas of potential change: 1) the vision statement; 2) the leadership discussion; 3) questions on what will constitute a quorum; and 4) need for notification of meeting requirements. Additionally, a question was raised about the need for a roll call vote to implement these guidelines or change them in the future. Action: Debby suggested that some of the discussion would be more appropriate for the April face-to-face meeting. This will be added to the April agenda.

- B. Communication Feedback: Members on the call generally agreed that communication appears to have improved. Most of the e-mail bugs have been worked out. Thank goodness!
- C. Face-to-face meetings and Conference Call capacity: This may be the most challenging issue for Region Seven at this time. Debby has the ability to get a conference phone to hook up at the DHS office in Jackson. However, this is a 3-hour meeting and she is concerned that individuals who call in will not stay on the call. Therefore, agenda items that require a vote may need to be collapsed to accommodate all representatives being able to vote. Additionally, face-to-face meetings are designed to include presentations that may be multi-media in nature. There is no way to accommodate this in the context of a conference call (at least not with our current budget). Other comments questioned the group's ability to build relationships if phone contact was the only method of communication.

Debby suggested that the group keep the conference phone for the winter meeting in January and only use face-to-face in April, July and October. While some members agreed that this was definitely their preference, other members felt that the flexibility was very important and asked to keep the call-in capacity. (So, this issue remains at a stalemate.)

**State Leader Reports and Action Items:** Maxine Vanlerberg reported:

Homeless Summit Planning: Maxine took part in another planning session for the Homeless Summit to be held October 22 and 23, 2009 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. The theme for the conference is: "Change That Makes a Difference". Conference planners are hoping that HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan will be one of the speakers. One of the items being proposed for the Summit is a report back on each county's Ten Year Plan. The group is seeking ideas and presenters for the Summit and will be sending out a list of over 20 interest topics to focus on.

"Save the date" notices for the Affordable Housing Conference will go out soon as will nomination requests for the Carla Javits award.

DRT State Leader Conversation and Voices for Action Blend: Tanda Reynolds (DHS) reported that she does not have any information on this topic. Connie Hackney noted that she will try to pass on any new information that she receives.

Kim Clementz also reported:

Due to changes in her employment responsibilities, Kim will no longer be able to fulfill her role as one of the Region Seven State Leadership representatives. Kim noted that her resignation will be effective April 1, 2009. Kim's original term of office went through December 31, 2009.

Discussion: Any regional representative is eligible to serve in this role either by self or other nomination. After a brief discussion it was decided that the ideal candidate would be willing to serve through December 2011. The proposed Operating Guidelines highlight the importance of this leadership role and the need for a candidate who can both participate consistently and serve as a communications conduit both from the Region Seven membership and the State-level leaders.

Angie Mayeaux inquired about the number of times that the State-level meetings occur. Connie responded that the group usually meets twice a year, once at the Affordable Housing Conference and once at the Homeless Summit. Angie expressed concern about the State Leadership Representatives ability to convey information in a timely manner when meetings are held so infrequently. (Perhaps an additional process needs to be in place.)

## **Updates from Collaborative Partners:**

### **MSHDA:** Connie Hackney reported:

- MSHDA will be receiving \$22m in Federal Stimulus Plan dollars. The focus of these monies will be on prevention, diversion and rapid re-housing. The required MSHDA guidelines must be published by March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Michigan is one of 16 states chosen to be audited for its use of Stimulus dollars.
- There will be a one-day convening of MSHDA statewide workgroups. This will be an all-day meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.
- MSHDA is doing some re-organization of duties. Connie Hackney will no longer be the Region 7 representative. Jerrie Lynn Gibbs will now serve in this role. Paul Biering will be the regional coordinator across all eight regions. The advantage to this change is that Paul can answer those questions that we often have about how other groups are addressing various tasks. Paul hopes that this will be more of a team approach and improve communications overall. This transition of responsibilities should take place by April 15, 2009.

### **Corporation for Supportive Housing:** Lindsey Bishop reported:

- Lindsey Bishop has assumed the CSH representative position for Region Seven formerly held by Mikki Myszak.
- CSH has trainings scheduled every month for the rest of the year. Information should be out soon on the Permanent Supportive Housing training scheduled for April.

### **Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness:** Debby reported:

- Jason Weller has been named the Executive Director of MICAH. Debby has been asked to invite him to the April Region Seven meeting in Jackson.

### **Department of Human Services:** Tanda Reynolds indicated that she had nothing further to report.

## **Campaign to End Homelessness Statewide Workgroup Reports:**

Connie Hackney noted that the best way to get reports on the progress of the workgroups was to subscribe to the Campaign newsletter. Connie once again encouraged Region Seven members and their constituents to sign up for the newsletter. This can be done by clicking on <http://tinyurl.com/CTEHnews> and signing up.

## **Voices for Action (V4A) Poverty Initiative Update:** Tanda Reynolds reported:

Tanda indicated that she has not had any new information on the Voices for Action Poverty Initiative. Tanda expressed approval at the idea that the efforts of the Campaign to End Homelessness and the V4A efforts may be blended because it seems that there is duplication in keeping them separate.

**Advocacy Training Feedback and Action Update:** This item is being kept on the agenda as a way of helping Region Seven members find out what is being done across the region to advocate on behalf of housing and homeless issues. Representatives from both Shiawassee and Eaton Counties noted that they were revisiting their advocacy action plans. These two counties, Livingston and Ingham are to be commended for making steps toward advocacy. Hooray!

## **Other Items of Concern:**

Regional Housing First Mini-Grants through Washtenaw Housing Alliance (WHA): If you haven't received your money, it may be because you have not returned your signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to WHA. Eaton, Ingham, Lenawee and Livingston have submitted signed MOU's.

HARP Vouchers: Angie Mayeaux from Ingham County noted that Ingham has had some problems with DHS and different landlords. Becky Zemla from Shiawassee noted that they had some similar issues but were finally able to resolve them by inviting the housing agent to their county. Connie noted that she would be happy to discuss the problem with Angie and her colleagues. One of Angie's main concerns was that the protocol for taking these types of problems to the State Team does not work if the team only meets two times per year.

Regional Grant Approval: Angie reported that although guidelines and regulations are in the grant RFP's that require regional review of grant submissions, these are not being followed. There is no advantage of going to the trouble to have a regional review nor is there any apparent penalty if a review does not take place. Connie said that MSHDA needs to look at this process.

Community Action Agency Conference: Bev Mostowy from Livingston County noted that our April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting is in conflict with the Community Action Agency statewide conference. Unfortunately, some of our regional members may not be able to be in two places at once! After a brief discussion, it was decided that to re-schedule the meeting would be very challenging. Members who cannot join us in Jackson are encouraged to send an alternate. In light of the Stimulus Plan activities and the need for a quick turnaround, this could be an important meeting.

**Adjournment:** With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**Next Meeting:            Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
                                 Face-to-Face Meeting**

**Louis Glick Building  
301 East Louis Glick Highway  
Jackson, MI 49201  
9:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Conference Call Dial in: 877-402-9753  
Access Code: 2265996**